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Report of the Security Council

Security Council
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 May 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Enclosed please find an assessment of the work of the Security Council under the Canadian Presidency in February 1999 (see annex), prepared pursuant to the provisions of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451), together with a covering letter.

The assessment was prepared under the responsibility of Ambassador Robert R. Fowler, and should not necessarily be considered as representative of the views of the Security Council or its members.

Bearing in mind the discussions in the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council, I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter and the attached assessment and covering letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel **Duval**
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Letter dated 24 May 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, addressed to the Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

I have the pleasure to provide you with the attached assessment of the work of the Security Council under the Canadian Presidency in February 1999 (see annex), prepared pursuant to the provisions of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451).

This assessment was prepared under the responsibility of Ambassador Robert R. Fowler, and reflects the views of the Canadian delegation. It should not necessarily be considered as representative of the views of the Security Council or its members.

Bearing in mind our discussions in the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council, I have requested that the Secretary-General circulate the assessment as a document of both the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel **Duval**
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex
Assessment of the work of the Security Council

Canada (February 1999)

This assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of February 1999 has been prepared under the responsibility of its President during that month, Robert Fowler, Permanent Representative of Canada. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada, Michel Duval, presided over the Council in the first week, owing to the illness of Ambassador Fowler.

Africa continued to dominate the Council's agenda: conflict flared between Ethiopia and Eritrea; discussions about the future of the United Nations role in Angola continued; and the Council remained seized of the crisis in Sierra Leone. The Secretary-General provided Council members with a *tour d'horizon* relating to peace and security issues, mainly in Africa, on 11 February. The Council also addressed its broader responsibilities for safeguarding international peace and security in all regions of the world, considering the situations in Haiti, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tajikistan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Iraq and Kosovo, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The President chaired four meetings of troop contributors regarding developments in various peacekeeping missions. Two peacekeeping mandates (MINURSO and MINURCA) were extended, while two other mandates (MONUA and UNPREDEP) expired, each for very different reasons. Two sanctions reviews were conducted, on Angola and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the three newly established Iraq panels began their work under the chairmanship of the Brazilian Ambassador, Celso Amorim.

The Council adopted four resolutions and issued four presidential statements during the course of the month. Eleven formal meetings were held, and members met in informal consultations of the whole on 18 occasions. On 12 February, the Council held an open briefing on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, presided over by Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs, after which a presidential statement was issued. This meeting was followed on 22 February by an open debate on the same subject at which non-members of the Council were given an opportunity to respond to the open briefing and to offer input into the future direction of Council action in this area, including the preparation of a report by the Secretary-General, due in September 1999.

Pursuing efforts to increase the transparency of the Council's work, the President regularly addressed the media after informal consultations of the whole. On 13 occasions, the President made statements to the press on specific issues on behalf of Council members. The Presidency also made available, on the Canadian Mission's Web site, *http://www.un.int/canada*, on a daily basis, the Council's programme of work and the President's statements to the media. Detailed briefings for countries which are not members of the Security Council were offered on each day the members of the Council met in informal consultations (closed). The Canadian Presidency sought to perpetuate a number of useful initiatives from past presidencies in an attempt to make the Council more transparent, accountable and responsive in the way it operates. In this regard, an earlier initiative of the Slovenian Presidency, regarding the preparation of Council resolutions and presidential statements, was reviewed, and a note by the President (S/1999/165) was issued on 17 February.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

The Security Council held an open briefing on 12 February on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The formal meeting was chaired by Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, and included the participation of Cornelio Sommaruga (President, International Committee of the Red Cross), Carol Bellamy (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) and Olara Otunnu (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict), as well as the 15 Council members. The subject of the meeting reflected Canada's conviction that the Security Council has a vital role to play in addressing threats to human security, and that the protection of civilians in armed conflict is central to the Council's mandate. (Records of the meetings can be found in S/PV.3977 and S/PV.3978.)

Immediately following the open briefing, the Council issued a presidential statement on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/PRST/1999/6) which, among its other provisions, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing concrete recommendations to the Council by September 1999 on ways the Council, acting within its sphere of responsibility, could improve the physical and

legal protection of civilians in armed conflict. Canada expects that the Council will then return to the issue of the protection of civilians in armed conflict in order to consider and act upon the Secretary-General's detailed recommendations.

A second formal meeting on the protection of civilians in armed conflict — an open debate — was held on 22 February. The meeting was intended to provide non-members of the Council with an opportunity to address the issues raised by Messrs. Sommaruga and Otunnu and Ms. Bellamy, as well as those raised by Sergio Vieira de Mello, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, during an open briefing on a related topic on 21 January. Participants in the 22 February meeting were encouraged to address the content of the report requested of the Secretary-General. More than 20 Member States, not members of the Security Council, did so. (Records of the meeting can be found in S/PV.3980 and S/PV.3980/Resumption 1).

Africa

On 11 February, the Secretary-General provided a *tour d'horizon* to Council members in informal consultations, in which he focused mainly on issues of peace and security in Africa, including Sierra Leone, Congo-Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, and also addressed the crisis in Kosovo. The Secretary-General highlighted areas which, in his view, were critical and required the special attention of the international community, and noted the new and worrying trend of the interrelationship between a number of these conflict situations. While his presentation focused on political and security issues, he noted that many of the underlying causes of these conflicts were social and economic.

Angola

United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

On 4 February, Council members received a sober assessment of the deteriorating political and military developments in Angola from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, as well as a briefing by Martin Griffiths, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. Mr. Annabi advised that the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) had not been able to revisit the crash sites of two United Nations-chartered planes which were shot down in December 1998 and early January 1999. Given the overall military situation in Angola, and the expiration of the MONUA mandate on 26 February, Mr. Annabi advised that the Secretary-General had written to the Angolan President regarding a continuing United Nations presence in the country. Council members expressed their support for renewed, urgent diplomatic efforts on the part of the Secretary-General and others, as well as their concern about the ongoing security of MONUA personnel.

Following the Secretary-General's briefing of 11 February, the members of the Council on 18 February received an update from the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Angola, Issa Diallo, regarding his ongoing discussions with the Government of Angola as to the possible nature of a continuing United Nations presence. Mr. Diallo discussed the letter which the Secretary-General had received from the President of Angola, in which the President advised that his Government did not see any reason to maintain MONUA upon the expiry of its mandate. The Russian Federation and the United States reported on ongoing diplomatic efforts among the Troika (which also includes Portugal), as well as their preparation of a draft resolution on the modalities and composition of a continuing United Nations presence.

On 22 February, two consecutive "Arria formula" meetings were held. Council members met first with an Angolan Government delegation, headed by Higino Carneiro, Angolan Vice-Minister for Territorial Administration. General Carneiro outlined his Government's views on the military and political situation in Angola, as well as on the matter of a future United Nations presence. Council members subsequently met with a Government of Zambia delegation, led by the Foreign Minister, Keli Walubita, and including the Minister for Home Affairs, K. Kalumba, and V. J. Mwaanga, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. Mr. Walubita conveyed his Government's rejection of allegations of Zambian violations of the sanctions regime imposed on UNITA. The President of the Council subsequently met with both delegations separately in an effort to promote better understanding between them.

On 23 February, the President chaired a meeting of troop contributors and Council members to consider the latest developments regarding the future of MONUA. Council members again discussed MONUA in informal consultations on 25 February, including the just released report of the Secretary-General (S/1999/202), and a draft resolution. On 26 February, the Council adopted resolution 1229 (1999), in which it took note of the expiration of the Mission's mandate, provided for its orderly liquidation while ensuring the safety of United Nations personnel, allowed for

the continuation of the Mission's human rights component during liquidation, and called for ongoing consultations with the Government of Angola regarding the nature of a continuing United Nations presence. Council members paid tribute to the contribution made over many years by dedicated and courageous United Nations personnel in MONUA and previous UNAVEM operations, including the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the late Alioune Blondin Beye.

Angola sanctions

During informal consultations on 18 February, the members of the Security Council discussed the report of the Angola sanctions Committee (S/1999/147), submitted by the President in his capacity as Chairman of that Committee. Council members approved the report, including its recommendation to commission an expert study focusing on measures to address arms trafficking, oil supply and the diamond trade, the movement of UNITA funds and military assistance to UNITA. The recommendations were subsequently endorsed in resolution 1229 (1999). Following the meeting, the President made a statement to the media expressing the Council members' support for the provisions of the report and welcoming its proposals on their behalf. In particular, he noted that members of the Council had focused on the practical, proactive nature of the report, and pledged to be supportive of the Committee's efforts to implement the provisions of the sanctions regime.

Burundi

On 17 February, Council members were briefed on the situation in Burundi. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall, reported that the Heads of State of the region had decided, at the fourth round of talks in Arusha (Arusha IV), to suspend regional sanctions despite some continuing armed confrontation in Burundi. In a statement to the media following informal consultations, the President, on behalf of the members of the Council, welcomed the decision to suspend regional sanctions and the progress achieved at Arusha IV, called on all parties to join in negotiations, deplored the ongoing violence in Burundi, expressed concern at reports of rebel groups operating from outside the country, and urged all parties to cease hostilities, guarantee the safety of civilians and respect the principles of humanitarian assistance (neutrality of humanitarian personnel and unimpeded access to populations in need).

Central African Republic

United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic

On 2 February, Council members considered the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) (S/1999/98), following a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General Annabi. Council members expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of MINURCA while retaining the Mission's military component at its current strength. In a statement to the media following the informal consultations, the President welcomed, on behalf of the members of the Council, the renewed commitments of the President of the Central African Republic to implement political, economic, social and security reforms, and advised that the Council would be shortly examining a draft resolution extending the Mission's mandate. He also expressed Council members' support for United Nations mediation efforts aimed at overcoming the political impasse in the Central African Republic, and for the process of national reconciliation in the country.

On 4 February, the members of the Council considered a draft resolution proposed by the Group of Friends of the Central African Republic, including Canada. On 5 February, Council members agreed upon a text to, *inter alia*, extend the mandate of MINURCA until 15 November 1999 (i.e., two months after the latest date for the holding of Presidential elections in accordance with the constitution of the Central African Republic). There would, however, be a mandate review every 45 days to assess progress in implementing the Bangui Agreements, the National Reconciliation Pact, and the commitments of the Government of the Central African Republic to implement various reforms and to establish an electoral commission to organize and set a timetable for Presidential elections.

Some members of the Council expressed concern at political tensions following recent legislative elections, highlighted by the opposition parties walking out of the National Assembly. The President of the Central African Republic wrote to the President of the Council on 9 February (S/1999/132) to address these concerns, and to reaffirm his commitment to implement political, economic, social and security reforms. On 18 February, the Council met to issue a presidential statement (S/PRST/1999/7) expressly linking the prospects for the success, future mandate and continued presence of MINURCA to the fulfilment of these commitments, in particular to the immediate resumption of a constructive political dialogue.

On 24 February, the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic wrote to the President (S/1999/200) to inform the Council of the latest proposal made by the Bureau of the National Assembly in the hope of bringing the opposition parties back to the National Assembly and putting an end to the political impasse. The same day, the President of the Council spoke by telephone to President Patassé, who reinforced his commitment to political compromise. On 26 February, the Security Council adopted resolution 1230 (1999), based on the Council's deliberations of 5 February.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

During informal consultations on 17 February, Council members were briefed by Assistant Secretary-General Fall on the latest developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He explained that various factors, including Angolan allegations of Zambian support of UNITA and the request from Rwanda and Uganda that the rebels be included at the negotiating table, had prevented the Lusaka summit from taking place as planned. Council members expressed particular concern at the continuing flow of illegal arms and military training to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, called for the cessation of these activities, and expressed deep concern about the continuing impact of hostilities on civilian populations and on the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Members reiterated the Council's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; expressed full support for the Lusaka peace process, especially the efforts of Zambian President Chiluba; and stressed the need for the full and thorough investigation of reported massacres and the punishment of perpetrators. The President spoke to the media following the informal consultations to convey these points on behalf of the members of the Council.

Ethiopia/Eritrea

Following the outbreak of heavy fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea over the weekend of 6 and 7 February, a draft resolution was introduced and discussed in informal consultations on 9 February. After the informal consultations, the President made a statement to the media expressing the Council members' dismay at the fighting, in particular its effects on civilian populations; their demand that the fighting cease immediately; and their intention to pursue ways to persuade the two countries to cease hostilities.

Following a briefing on 10 February by the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy for Africa, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, the Council adopted resolution 1227 (1999), in which it condemned the parties' recourse to the use of force; demanded an immediate halt to hostilities, especially air strikes; demanded that the parties resume diplomatic efforts to resolve their dispute peacefully; stressed that the OAU Framework Agreement remained a viable basis for resolving the conflict and expressed full support for OAU, United Nations and other interested States' efforts in that regard; called upon both parties to ensure the safety of civilian populations and respect for international humanitarian law; and strongly urged all States to cease immediately the sale of arms and munitions to the parties. The Permanent Representatives of Ethiopia and Eritrea addressed the Council at the meeting at which the resolution was adopted.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, briefed the members of the Council on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea on 24 February. After these informal consultations, the President, on behalf of the members of the Council, made a statement to the media deploring the continuation of hostilities, insisting that both parties respect relevant Security Council resolutions and immediately and unconditionally agree to a ceasefire, reaffirming the viability of the OAU Framework Agreement and strongly urging all Member States to halt the supply of arms and munitions to Ethiopia and Eritrea, as called for in previous resolutions.

Following receipt of a letter from the President of Eritrea to the President of the Council in which Mr. Afwerki accepted the terms of the OAU Framework Agreement, the Council met formally on 27 February. The Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/1999/9), in which it welcomed Eritrea's acceptance of the Agreement, reaffirmed both countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, and expressed the Council's willingness to consider all appropriate support to implement a peace accord between the two parties.

Guinea-Bissau

On 4 February, Council members were briefed on the situation in Guinea-Bissau by Under-Secretary-General Prendergast, who informed the Council that a ceasefire agreement had been signed on 3 February which allowed the deployment of a 1,400-strong contingent of ECOMOG peacekeepers. The humanitarian situation in Guinea-Bissau was described as very difficult: recent fighting had displaced thousands, killed dozens, wounded hundreds and nearly exhausted remaining food and medical supplies.

Following these informal consultations, the President made a statement to the media, on behalf of the members of the Council, expressing their concern at renewed fighting and their support for ECOWAS and other international efforts to bring peace; calling upon all parties to halt military operations and allow the free flow of humanitarian assistance; and urging all parties to renew their commitments to the Abuja peace process and to respect the ceasefire of 3 February.

Review of sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were reviewed in informal consultations on 26 February. The Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Hans Corell, briefed Council members on their efforts to help resolve the Lockerbie and UTA issues. On behalf of the members of the Council, the President made a statement to the media following the informal consultations, noting that the Council had been briefed on deliberations under way to resolve the Lockerbie and UTA issues, and that, further to the discussion between members, no changes to the sanctions regime were discussed.

Sierra Leone

Council members discussed Sierra Leone on 11 and 17 February. During his 11 February *tour d'horizon*, the Secretary-General urged that material support be provided for ECOMOG peacekeeping efforts and underscored the urgency of the humanitarian situation. On 17 February, the members of the Council were briefed on the situation in Sierra Leone by Mr. Annabi, who reported that President Kabbah had committed himself to a dialogue for peace with the rebels. Mr. Annabi also raised concerns with regard to Nigeria's possible withdrawal of its ECOMOG presence. The humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone was described as horrific: mutilations, summary executions, rape, the use of child soldiers and the use of women and children as human shields. One third of the country's population, approximately 1.5 million people, had been displaced by the fighting.

Somalia

Council members were briefed on the situation in Somalia on 24 February by Under-Secretary-General Prendergast. The President made a statement to the media, on behalf of the members of the Council, after the informal consultations, highlighting the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia, urging the international community to provide desperately needed assistance, and calling upon all Member States to honour the arms embargo designed to prohibit the flow of arms into this volatile area.

Western Sahara

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

On 2 February, the members of the Council were briefed in informal consultations by Assistant Secretary-General Annabi on MINURSO and the situation in Western Sahara. The Secretary-General, in his report of 28 January (S/1999/88) recommended that MINURSO be extended until 28 February.

On 11 February, the Council adopted resolution 1228 (1999), extending the mandate of MINURSO until 31 March, in which it requested both the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front to enable the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to carry out necessary work for the repatriation of those Saharan refugees and their families eligible to vote in the upcoming referendum. Further, the Council supported the Secretary-General's intention to reassess the viability of MINURSO, should prospects to implement the package of measures presented to the parties in 1998 remain elusive when he next reports to the Council.

Following the meeting, the President addressed the media as authorized by the members of the Council, welcoming the signature of the status-of-forces agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations as an important step forward in the referendum process, and expressing the Council's hope that the mandate extension would allow for progress towards the planned referendum in December 1999.

Europe

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 3 February, in informal consultations, Council members considered the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998) and 1203 (1998) (S/1999/99). The discussion was preceded by a briefing provided by Under-Secretary-General Prendergast, who updated the members of the Council on the situation in Kosovo since the preparation of the report. This update indicated that the security situation had eroded significantly, and the humanitarian situation was also deteriorating rapidly. UNHCR reported growing numbers of displaced persons

(370,000, of which 210,000 were still inside Kosovo), as well as increased harassment of international personnel. The President of the Council, in a statement to the media, expressed the Council members' concern over the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in Kosovo and reiterated their support for the Contact Group's 29 January 1999 initiative, as previously expressed in a statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/1999/5).

During the course of the month, in informal consultations, Council members received periodic briefings from the United Kingdom and French delegations on the progress of the political negotiations taking place at Rambouillet, France. These updates were in accordance with the terms of S/PRST/1999/5. Following the conclusion of the Rambouillet negotiations, the members of the Security Council held a short, informal discussion on 23 February. In a statement to the media, the President, on behalf of the members of the Council, took note of the conclusions of the co-Chairmen of the Rambouillet Conference, noted with satisfaction the agreements achieved there as well as the commitment of the parties to attend a conference covering all aspects of the implementation of these agreements, called on the parties to refrain from taking action which could jeopardize the achievements of Rambouillet and to comply fully with all of their commitments and the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The members of the Security Council were briefed in informal consultations on 23 February by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Carlos Westendorp. The briefing was based on the report of the High Representative for the period from October to December 1998 (S/1999/139). Mr. Westendorp cited three issues in particular: the cantonal elections, the Madrid Peace Implementation Council meeting, and the signing of the Agreement on Special Relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. He also underlined the necessity of forming a government in the Republika Srpska.

Following the briefing, the President briefed the media as agreed by members of the Council. His statement reiterated the Council members' strong support for the High Representative and his Office; welcomed the conclusions of the Madrid Peace Implementation Council meeting; underlined that authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have to assume greater responsibility for functions currently undertaken or coordinated by the international community; expressed the Council members' concern that, despite what Mr. Westendorp characterized as achievements in minority returns, significant breakthroughs were still needed, and at the continuing difficulties in forming a government in the Republika Srpska.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

United Nations Preventive Deployment Force

On 23 February, Ambassador Fernando Martin Valenzuela Marzo, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, briefed Council members in informal consultations and, in a separate meeting, also briefed troop contributors. The Secretary-General had earlier recommended, in his report of 12 February on UNPREDEP (S/1999/161), that the Council might wish to consider extending the presence of the Force, which had last been extended (and expanded) pursuant to resolution 1186 (1998). Ensuing discussions reflected wide, but not universal, support for an extension of the mandate of UNPREDEP for a further six months. A draft resolution (S/1999/201) was introduced in informal consultations on 24 February and formally considered at a meeting of the Council on 25 February. Thirteen members voted in favour of the draft resolution. The Russian Federation abstained. China cast a negative vote, thereby vetoing the proposed mandate extension. A number of Member States expressed regret at the demise of this first United Nations preventive deployment.

Subsequently, a meeting of troop contributors and Council members was held on 26 February during which Assistant Secretary-General Annabi provided information concerning the Secretariat's preliminary plans for the liquidation of UNPREDEP.

Middle East

Iraq

Establishment of the Iraq panels

During the month, the three panels on Iraq, established on 30 January 1999 by a note by the President (S/1999/100), began to take shape under the leadership of Celso Amorim of Brazil. Following consultations on 12 February with the President, members of the Council, the Secretary-General, as well as other interested parties, Mr. Amorim formally advised the Secretary-General and Council President of the composition of the panels, and the President of the Council and Mr. Amorim so informed the press. On 26 February, Mr.

Amorim briefed members of the Council on the panels' initial work plan and programme of meetings.

On 8 February, members of the Council received a report from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, concerning the status of the implementation of the IAEA mandate in Iraq. Mr. ElBaradei noted that his report might be useful to the panel on disarmament and current and ongoing monitoring and verification.

On 19 February, at the request of a Council member, the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme, Benon Sevan, provided a written brief, based on the best available information, regarding missile impacts in the area of Dohuk in northern Iraq.

Review of the oil-for-food programme

On 25 February, during informal consultations, the members of the Council reviewed the Iraq oil-for-food programme on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1210 (1998). Mr. Sevan introduced the Secretary-General's report. Council members commented on how the programme could be made more effective, and on the need for Iraq to improve its cooperation with the programme. Council members also noted that Mr. Sevan was preparing a detailed assessment of the humanitarian situation in Iraq over the past two years and would be sharing his assessment with the panel on humanitarian affairs. Members expressed their hope that this panel would provide the Council with forward-looking recommendations to address the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

Asia

Tajikistan

United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan

The members of the Council were briefed on 18 February on the situation in Tajikistan by Assistant Secretary-General Annabi, who summarized the conclusions of the Secretary-General's interim report (S/1999/124) as slow progress in a precarious security environment. Security conditions did not yet permit the deployment of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) outside the capital, and investigation into the murders of four UNMOT personnel last year remained incomplete as the rebel United Tajik Opposition (UTO) had refused to cooperate fully. After these informal consultations, the President spoke to the media, expressing the Council members' concern about the slow pace of the peace process and their call on the parties to implement fully the General Agreement and complete the first two stages foreseen in the protocol on military issues. The members of the Council also expressed concern about the state of the security situation and the lack of cooperation of UTO in the investigation of the murdered personnel.

On 23 February, the Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/1999/8) on the situation in Tajikistan, in which the Council welcomed progress towards national reconciliation and towards early implementation of the peace agreements in Tajikistan; underlined the necessity of holding a constitutional referendum and presidential elections in 1999, as well as the timely holding of parliamentary elections; and reiterated both the Council's concern that the security situation in Tajikistan remained precarious, and the importance of a full investigation into the murder of four UNMOT members.

Americas

Haiti

On 3 February, Council members were briefed on the continuing political impasse in Haiti. During informal consultations, Assistant Secretary-General Annabi informed Council members of the results of the internal consultations and discussions held in New York in reaction to the events that followed President Préval's speech of 11 January. Mr. Annabi also addressed the discussions that the Representative of the Secretary-General had, on behalf of the international community, with the President, Prime Minister and political parties in order to assist in resolving the political situation. In a statement to the media following the informal consultations, the President expressed the Council members' concern at the political and electoral impasse in Haiti; urged Haitian political leaders to overcome their differences and to constitute a credible Provisional Electoral Council so as to organize early, open, free and fair elections; and expressed the members' readiness to support a credible electoral process.

Other matters

Following the death of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, the President conveyed the Council's condolences and deep sorrow on his passing in a statement to the media on 9 February. During a formal meeting on 10 February, by observing a moment of silence and in a tribute read by the

President, the Council honoured the memory of the late King Hussein.

On 5 February, the President met, separately, with the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Liberia, Monie R. Captan, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, Pandeli Majko, at their request. During the month, the President also met with the President of the General Assembly, Didier Opertti, and with the acting President of the General Assembly, Gian Nicola Filippi Balestra, regarding the Council's programme of work, and with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Francesco Paolo Fulci, regarding closer cooperation between the Council and the Economic and Social Council as envisaged in Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Transparency

Throughout the Presidency, the Canadian Mission sought to make the work of the Security Council more transparent to the full membership of the United Nations. The practice of providing daily, detailed briefings to representatives of all interested Member States immediately after informal consultations was followed without fail. Copies of statements to the media, as well as copies of draft resolutions before the Council, were regularly distributed at these briefings. The Canadian Mission's Web site (*http://www.un.int/canada*) was regularly updated with the Council's programme of work. All statements to the media were posted in English and French. The Web site also included a link to the Security Council documents page. Statements from the open briefing and open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict were placed directly on the Canadian Presidency home page.

Attachment

Statements to the press by the President of the Security Council

Western Sahara (2 February 1999)

[Original: English]

On Western Sahara, the Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, particularly with regard to the state of the status-of-forces agreement and that of UNHCR.

The Security Council will come back to this issue next week, as the mandate of MINURSO has been extended to 11 February.

Central African Republic (2 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press regarding the Central African Republic:

> The members of the Security Council were informed of the results of the visit to the Central African Republic of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, and welcome in particular the renewed commitments made by the President of the Central African Republic on this occasion.
>
> The members of the Security Council will, in the coming days, examine a draft resolution aimed at extending the mandate of MINURCA.
>
> The members of the Security Council wish to bring their support to the mediation efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Oluyemi Adeniji, in order to overcome the current deadlock between the Mouvance présidentielle and the opposition parties.
>
> The members of the Security Council also wish to express their continued support for the process of national reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

Kosovo (3 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press regarding Kosovo:

> The members of the Council continued to be greatly concerned by the deteriorating situation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as described in the Secretary-General's report (S/1999/99).
>
> The members of the Council again expressed their view that there is an urgent need for a political settlement of the situation.
>
> The members of the Council reiterated their support for the political process launched by the Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group on 29 January in London and recalled the statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/1999/5) of the same day.
>
> The members of the Council strongly urged the parties to participate actively, in good faith and without preconditions, in this political process, and to fulfil their obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions and agreements.

Haiti (3 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press regarding Haiti:

> The members of the Council heard a briefing on the situation in Haiti by Assistant Secretary-General Annabi.
>
> The members of the Council remain concerned at the political and electoral impasse in Haiti.
>
> The members of the Council urge all of Haiti's political leaders to overcome their differences, and to create the basis for early, open, free and fair elections, through the constitution of a credible Provisional Electoral Council.
>
> The members of the Council are prepared to support a credible, fair and transparent electoral process leading to early legislative and local elections.
>
> The members of the Council praise the professionalism of the Haitian National Police in keeping civil order in this period of political tension.
>
> The members of the Council reiterate their support for the efforts of the Friends and the Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti.

Angola (4 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press regarding Angola:

The members of the Council were briefed today by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, and Martin Griffiths of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on Angola.

The members of the Council received a sober assessment of the deteriorating military, political, security and humanitarian situation.

The members of the Council expressed their concern over the numerous examples of the worsening situation described by the United Nations Secretariat officials.

The members of the Council also expressed their support for renewed and urgent diplomatic efforts to reverse this negative cycle on the military, political, security and humanitarian fronts.

The members of the Council expressed their condolences to the Government of Namibia on the killing of a member of the Namibian contingent of MONUA, and expressed its continued concern over the safety of United Nations personnel.

The members of the Council will continue their active consideration of this issue.

Guinea-Bissau (4 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press regarding Guinea-Bissau:

The members of the Council were briefed on the ongoing situation in Guinea-Bissau by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast.

The members of the Council expressed concern over the sporadic renewal of fighting, and called on all parties to halt military operations, respect international humanitarian law and facilitate the free flow of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

The members of the Council urged the parties to renew their commitment to the Abuja Agreement of 1 November 1998, both in letter and spirit, and to respect the new ceasefire accord signed on 3 February 1999.

There was also wide support for all of the international efforts to help bring peace to Guinea-Bissau, especially by ECOWAS; the efforts of the President of Togo, in his capacity as Chairman of ECOWAS, were specifically noted.

The members of the Council urged those who can to assist ECOWAS in these efforts.

Ethiopia and Eritrea (9 February 1999)

[Original: English]

I have been authorized by the members of the Security Council to make the following statement to the press on the situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea:

The members of the Council expressed their dismay over the fighting which has erupted and which continues between Ethiopia and Eritrea in the Badme region.

Council members are especially concerned over the effects of the fighting on civilian populations.

Council members also demand that the fighting cease immediately, in line with the Council's previous resolution.

The members of the Council are actively considering the situation, and ways in which these two countries can be persuaded to cease hostilities.

The Council is looking forward to a briefing tomorrow by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ambassador Sahnoun.

The Council members support the ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve this dispute.

The Council will continue its active consideration of this issue.

Kosovo (9 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Council were briefed by the Ambassador of France on developments in Rambouillet in the discussions between representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Albanian leadership.

Renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (9 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Council considered the issue of the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

As you know, MINURSO's current mandate expires on 11 February.

The members of the Council will continue the consideration of this item over the next couple of days.

His Majesty the late King Hussein of Jordan (9 February 1999)

[Original: English]

I have been authorized by the members of the Security Council to make the following statement to the press regarding His Majesty the late King Hussein of Jordan:

> It was with deep sorrow that the members of the Security Council learned of the death on 7 February of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan.
>
> The Security Council offers its condolences and sympathy to the people of Jordan, to Her Majesty Queen Noor, to His Majesty King Abdullah and to the rest of the royal family of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
>
> Jordan and the entire region is bereft of one of its greatest leaders. We have all lost a steadfast warrior for peace. His prodigious and comprehensive understanding of his region and his willingness to take risks for peace helped to secure a brighter future for his people, and hope for his entire region. His presence both in words and deeds will be missed, but not forgotten, by the Security Council as it continues to work for peace and security in the Middle East.
>
> In the person of His Majesty King Hussein, the Charter of the United Nations could have had no stronger champion of its ideals.

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (11 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press on the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara:

As you know, the Security Council has just adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 31 March 1999.

It is our hope and expectation that this mandate extension will allow for progress towards the holding of the referendum planned for December 1999.

The members of the Council welcome the signing of the status-of-forces agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations, which is an important step forward in the referendum process.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (17 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

The members of the Council were briefed on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Council members called on all parties, especially the rebel movements, to cease hostilities, put a ceasefire in place, and work through diplomatic means to resolve their differences.

The members of the Council were particularly concerned about the continuing flow of illegal arms and military training to the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and called for the cessation of these activities.

Council members were deeply concerned about the continuing impact of the hostilities on civilian populations and on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those so affected.

Council members reiterated their support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The members of the Council consider that it is vital to ensure that there be a broad base, multi-ethnic involvement in the peace efforts.

Council members fully support the Lusaka peace process, and especially the efforts of Zambian President Chiluba, which has the support of both OAU and the United Nations.

Council members are pleased with the return to the country of the Special Rapporteur on the situation

of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Roberto Garretón, and they stressed the need for full and thorough investigations to be carried out in respect of reported massacres, and that the perpetrators of such acts not escape with impunity.

Burundi (17 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement to the press on the situation in Burundi:

The members of the Council were briefed this morning on developments in Burundi.

Council members welcomed the decision of the Heads of State of the countries of the Great Lakes region, taken on 23 January, to suspend regional sanctions.

Council members also welcomed the progress achieved during the fourth session of the Arusha peace negotiations and expressed their support for the efforts of Mwalimu Nyerere, in his role as the Facilitator of the peace process.

Council members reiterated their support for the Arusha process and called on all the Burundian parties to join those who are taking part to these negotiations, with a view to concluding a peace accord.

Council members expressed their support for international assistance to communities in Burundi.

Council members deplored the ongoing violence, expressing their concern at reports of armed activities of Burundian rebel groups operating from outside the country.

Council members urged all the Burundian parties to stop fighting.

Recalling the recent statement made by the President of the Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, Council members urged all the parties to guarantee the safety of civilians, and call for the respect of the principles of humanitarian assistance, including unhindered access to displaced persons and refugees, and respect for the neutrality of those delivering such assistance.

Report of the Committee established under resolution 866 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola (18 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Council discussed the report of the sanctions Committee established under resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola (S/1999/147).

Wearing my dual hats of both President of the Council and Chairman of this Committee, I am very happy to be able to say that Council members were very supportive of the provisions of the report and welcomed its proposals.

In particular, members of the Council focused on the practical, proactive nature of the report, and pledged to be supportive of our efforts to implement the provisions of this sanctions regime.

The Council approved the report of the sanctions Committee, including its recommendations regarding the commissioning of an expert study focusing on measures regarding arms trafficking, oil supply and the diamond trade, as well as the movement of UNITA funds.

The situation in Tajikistan (18 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council were briefed on the situation in Tajikistan.

Council members expressed concern about the slow pace of the peace process and called on the parties to implement fully the General Agreement and complete the first two stages foreseen in the protocol on military issues.

Members of the Council were concerned about the state of the security situation and lack of cooperation of the United Tajik Opposition with regard to the investigation into the murders of the four UNMOT personnel last August.

There is a draft presidential statement under preparation covering the Council's concern over lack of progress and the precarious security situation in the country, on which work will continue this afternoon.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (23 February 1999)

[Original: English]

I have been authorized by the members of the Security Council to make the following statement to the press on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina:

Members of the Security Council considered the latest report of the High Representative and received an update from him on the current state of the peace implementation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They reiterated their strong support for the High Representative and his Office in implementing the Peace Agreement.

Members of the Council, while noting substantial progress in the last months, considered that much more remained to be done to make peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina self-sustaining. They welcomed the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Council meeting held in Madrid on 15 and 16 December 1998. They underlined that the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have to assume greater responsibilities for the functions now undertaken or coordinated by the international community.

Members of the Council expressed concern that, despite achievements in the field of minority return, significant breakthroughs are still needed. They also expressed concern at the continuing difficulties to form a Government in Republika Srpska, which should be settled in accordance with the Republika Srpska constitution and the Peace Agreement.

Members of the Council will continue to follow closely the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The situation in Kosovo (23 February 1999)

[Original: English]

I have been authorized by the members of the Security Council to make the following statement to the press on the conclusions of the co-chairmen of the Rambouillet Conference:

Members of the Security Council took note of the conclusions of the co-chairmen of the Rambouillet Conference at the end of two weeks of intensive efforts aimed at reaching an agreement on substantial autonomy for Kosovo which respects the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Members of the Council noted with satisfaction that, with the Rambouillet agreements, a political framework for substantial autonomy has been set out.

Members of the Council noted the commitment of the parties to attend a conference covering all aspects of the implementation of these agreements, in France on 15 March. Members of the Council encouraged the parties to work constructively to this end.

Members of the Council underlined that it was essential for all the parties to refrain from any action which could jeopardize the achievements of the Rambouillet negotiations, and to fully comply with their commitments of October 1998 and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Members of the Council will continue to follow closely the situation.

The situation in Ethiopia/Eritrea (24 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Council were briefed on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea by Under-Secretary-General Kieran Prendergast.

Council members deplored the continuation of hostilities in spite of its resolution 1227 (1999) of 10 February 1999, and insisted that the parties respect this resolution and immediately and unconditionally agree to a ceasefire.

In this same light, members of the Council reaffirmed that the OAU Framework Agreement represents a viable and sound basis for the political settlement of this dispute.

Council members specifically recalled the provision of resolution 1227 (1999), strongly urging all States to end immediately all sales of arms and munitions to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Somalia (24 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council were briefed on the situation in Somalia by Under-Secretary-General Kieran Prendergast.

The briefing highlighted the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia.

The Council members urged the international community to continue to pay close attention to this situation, and to provide the assistance which is so desperately needed by the civilian population.

Council members strongly reiterated the call, under resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, for all States to honour the arms embargo designed to prohibit the entry of arms into this volatile area.

Iraq oil-for-food programme (25 February 1999)

[Original: English]

Members of the Council received a briefing from the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme pursuant to Security Council resolution 1210 (1998).

Members provided their comments on how the programme could be improved, and the need for Iraq to improve its cooperation with the programme as outlined in the report.

The members noted that Mr. Sevan will be providing his expertise to the humanitarian panel.

They expressed their hope that this panel would provide the Council with forward-looking recommendations to address the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

Sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (26 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Security Council have authorized me to make the following statement regarding the review of sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:

> Members of the Council were briefed by the Secretary-General and the Legal Counsel, Hans Corell, on consultations held to resolve the Lockerbie and UTA issues.
>
> The briefing was followed by a discussion among Council members.
>
> Council members also noted that the provisions of resolution 1192 (1998) have not been complied with.
>
> No changes to the sanctions regime were discussed.

The Secretary-General will continue to report to the Council on his efforts to resolve this matter.

The Council will continue to review the matter.

Iraq (26 February 1999)

[Original: English]

The members of the Council had a briefing today from Ambassador Amorim of Brazil, as Chairman of the Iraq panels.

He related the various issues that the three panels are discussing.

He noted that Iraq has provided documents to the disarmament panel related to its work.

Members of the Council welcome this as an important action by Iraq.